

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment was received on 12/31/07. Claims 1-13 and 17 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. Due to the amendment and interview of 3/14/08, the 112 rejection of claims 1-13 and 17 are withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-13 and 17 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 is allowable because the prior art does not teach the claimed fourth step of extracting the smallest area that includes the rotated region when protrusion was detected after rotation.

Other prior art such as Takakura et al. (US Patent 6,885,776 B2) teaches rotating an image in fig. 5B where the rotated image protrudes with respect to another image and not the same image as the claimed third step requires.

Akai et al. (US Patent 4,706,205) teaches rotation of an image in fig. 1,num. 7 and checks for protrusion in fig. 1,num. 5 corresponding to the claimed third step. However, Akai does not disclose extraction of the smallest area and especially when protrusion was detected.

Claims 2-13 and 17 are allowable for depending on allowable parent claim 1.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dennis Rosario whose telephone number is (571) 272-7397. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Bella can be reached on (571) 272-7778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dennis Rosario/

/Matthew C Bella/

Application/Control Number: 10/614,511
Art Unit: 2624

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Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
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